



News Release

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Seed dealers, wheat growers reminded of order affecting seed sales

TOPEKA – Kansas Secretary of Agriculture Jamie Clover Adams issued a statement today reminding seed dealers and wheat growers that the order she signed last year requiring that all wheat, durum wheat and triticale seed offered for sale in Kansas be tested and certified Karnal bunt-free is still in effect.

“Seed is one of the highest-risk pathways for transmitting Karnal bunt,” said Adams. “Requiring that it be tested and certified Karnal bunt-free is an important measure we can take to protect our \$1 billion wheat industry.”

The administrative order applies to all seed offered for sale in Kansas, including seed grown within the state. The department’s agricultural commodities assurance program is verifying that seed offered for sale meets the testing and certification criteria outlined in Adams’ July 17, 2001, order. Program staff will stop the sale of any seed that has not been tested and certified Karnal bunt-free.

Seed purchasers can verify seed meets the terms of the order by looking for the Kansas Crop Improvement Association’s certification for Kansas-grown seed, or by asking to see the phytosanitary certificate issued by the state where the wheat seed was grown, if it was grown outside of Kansas.

Adams order was issued last year after Karnal bunt was found in four north Texas counties. Karnal bunt is a fungal disease of wheat that can affect crop yield and quality. The most detrimental effect of the disease is on international and domestic markets. Many countries will not import wheat from areas that have tested positive for the disease and some domestic flour mills will not accept it.

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On the web: www.accesskansas.org/kda/Plantpest/ExcludingNewPests/karnal_bunt/plant-excluding.karnal.htm